

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this Amendment is being sent by electronic filing with the United States Patent Office on this 1st day of May, 2006.

Signed: _____

Christopher H. Hunter

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Patrick S. O'Hern, et al)
) Art Unit: 1724
)
) Examiner: Thomas M. Lithgow
Serial No.: 10/648,021)
)
Filed: August 26, 2003)
)
For: RETAINING RING CAP FILTER) Date: May 1, 2006
)

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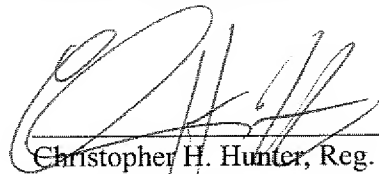
AMENDMENT AFTER NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE
UNDER 37 CFR 1.312

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due mailed April 20, 2006. Applicant appreciates the efforts made by the Examiner to put this case in condition for allowance, and the Examiner's Amendment that was provided. Applicant noticed during review of the Examiner's Amendment, that the dependency numbers in

claims 9 and 30 may have been improperly identified during the renumbering process. Namely, in claims 9 and 30 it was proposed to "change "7" to -13--" (a copy of the Examiner's Amendment, page 2 is provided for ease of reference). However, both claim 9 and 30 depend from claim 8. A minor clarification to the Examiner's Amendment is respectfully requested, such that the appropriate changes will be made during publication. Such a clarification is shown on the attached.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CH Hunter", is written over a horizontal line.

Christopher H. Hunter, Reg. 34,187

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Hunter on 19 January 2006.

The amendment after Final dated by COM 05 January 2006 has been entered and the following Ex's Amd't is then entered.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 7,8 and 14-16 are canceled;

Claim 9, line 1, change ~~"7"~~ to -13--;

Claim 30, line 1, change ~~"7"~~ to -13--;

Claim 31, line 1, change "7" to -13--;

Claim 4, line 2, before "all components" insert -the media ring and the bonded end caps comprise a filter element--;

Claim 13, line 2 after "including" insert -a filter element comprising--;